

# Laboratory Testing Algorithm for Patients with Suspect MERS-CoV

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Patient must meet **clinical** criteria AND **exposure** criteria for testing authorization

## CLINICAL CRITERIA

Does patient have fever ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) and acute respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia), based on clinical or radiological evidence?

YES

Patient meets CLINICAL criteria.  
Determine if patient meets at least one of the exposure criteria.

NO

Patient DOES NOT meet clinical criteria. No specimen authorized.  
Instruct patient if symptoms worsen to return for re-evaluation.

If **NO to all three**, then the patient DOES NOT meet exposure criteria.  
No further action needed. Can call ISDH for consultation.

NO

## Evaluate for EXPOSURE CRITERIA

Did patient have **history of travel** from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula within 14 days before symptom onset?

YES

NO

Did patient have **recent close contact** with a symptomatic traveler who developed fever and acute respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia) within 14 days after traveling from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula?

YES

NO

Is patient a member of a cluster of patients with severe acute respiratory illness (e.g. fever and pneumonia requiring hospitalization) of unknown etiology in which MERS-CoV is being evaluated, in consultation with state and local health departments.

YES

NO

Fever AND symptoms of respiratory illness AND being in a healthcare facility (as a patient, worker or visitor) within 14 days before symptom onset in a country of territory in are near the Arabian Peninsula in which recent healthcare-associated cases of MERS have been identified

YES

Patient meets EXPOSURE criteria. Place patient in contact/airborne isolation Call ISDH for testing authorization at 317-233-7125. After hours, call 317-233-1325.

**Countries considered in or near the Arabian Peninsula:** Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Israel, West Bank and Gaza, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Yemen.

**Close contact** is defined as a) any person who provided care for the patient, including a healthcare worker or family member, or had similarly close physical contact; or b) any person who stayed at the same place (e.g. lived with, visited) as the patient while the patient was ill. Consult CDC website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for more information. At this time brief interactions, such as walking by a person, are considered low risk and does not constitute close contact.